

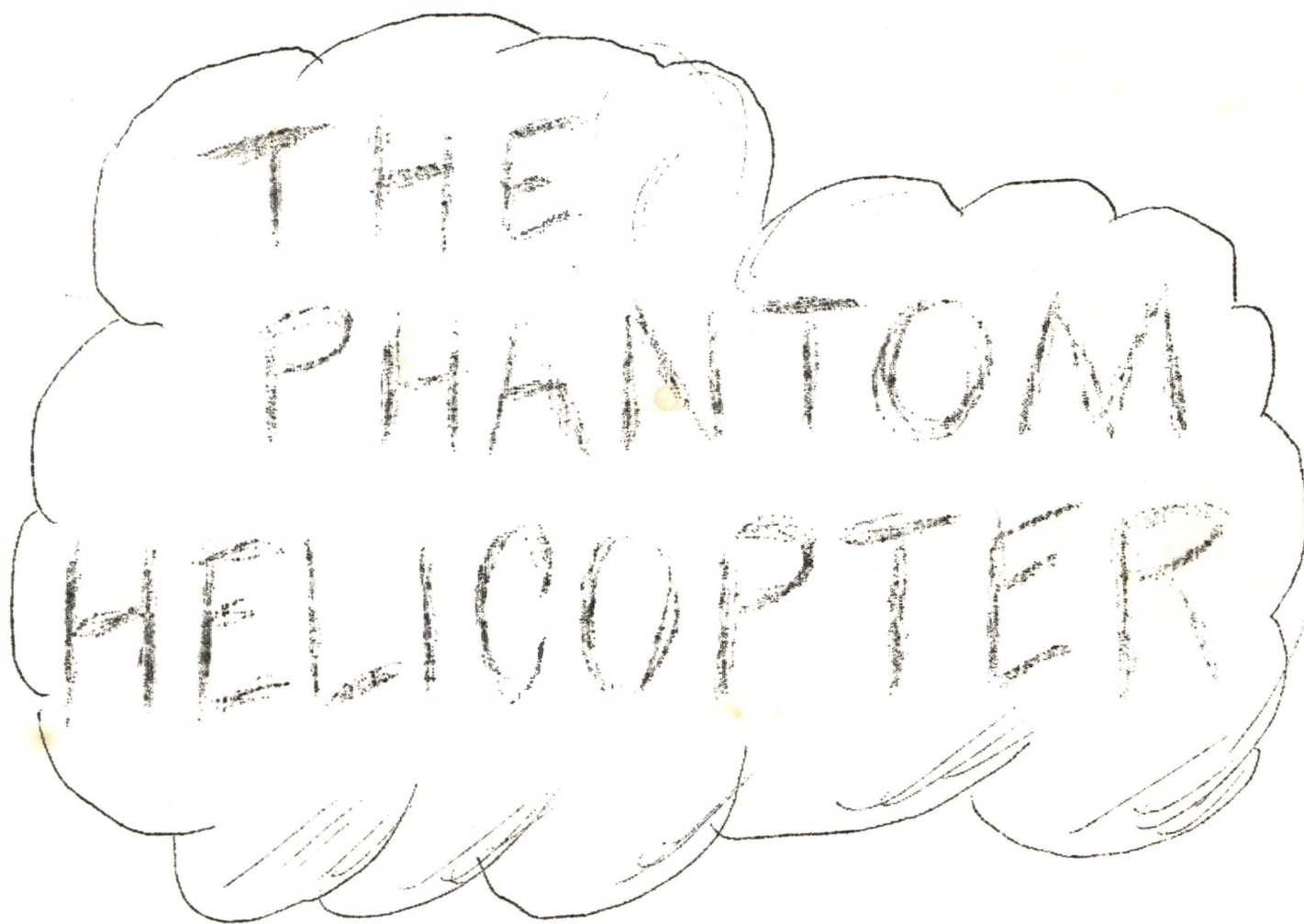
MUFOB

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 4

MERSEYSIDE UFO BULLETIN

Editorial Panel: JOHN HARNEY : JOHN RIMMER : PETER ROGERSON : ALAN SHARP



THE PHANTOM HELICOPTER

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE -

PART 6

* * * * *

E D I T O R I A L

Wait and See

Nothing much to comment about this time. We would just like to draw the attention of our readers to Flying Saucer Review, Volume 19, Number 5, page 12, where it is reported that Uri Geller is "working on the problem of teleporting back to Earth the camera left on the Moon by astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell".

Geller is quoted as saying: "Now I don't know when it (the camera on the Moon) will come back, but when the time is right, it will".

The editors of this Bulletin are eagerly waiting to hear of the accomplishment of this great feat of mind over matter and of its authentication by NASA. When and if this happens, we shall start taking Uri Geller rather more seriously.

L E T T E R T O T H E E D I T O R

From Dr RON WESTRUM

Dear Mr Harney,

This is a very late response indeed to MUFOB 5:2, which contains a number of proposals for UFO research by Peter Rogerson, who was kind enough to send me a copy. My only criticism of the proposals is that they seem ambivalent about social control of UFO research: on the one hand, almost dictatorial policies are proposed for the "channelling" of such research, and on the other hand, steps are proposed which would remove two sources of social control: editorial opinion in journals and corporate opinions of UFO organisations. Perhaps Peter has not given enough thought to how the channelling he would like to see is to take place. The creation of a purely scientific UFO journal, staffed by and contributed to by natural scientists with doctoral training, would exempt at least three-quarters of the people now making contributions to UFO journals and would doubtless exclude such marginally scientific types as Peter and myself.

But my real purpose is to suggest that while many of these proposals are good as far as they go, they do not go far enough. I would like to see:

1) as a minimum, the creation of a real-time communication system, at least on a national scale, whose sole purpose is to report on UFO happenings. Teams of investigators could be dispatched to the scenes of Type I cases much sooner.

2) the use of the United States' "close look" satellites for surveillance of areas identified by step 1. Anyone who does not understand what a close look satellite can do should acquire Adelphi Paper No. 88 (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Arms Control, by Ted Greenwood) from the Institute for Strategic Studies, 18 Adam Street, London WC2N 6AL. Cost: 35p.

3) Use of the United States' various radar surveillance systems, particularly those in NORAD, to keep track of UFO trajectories. At one time, J Allen Hynek proposed a special sub-routine for the NORAD computers for this purpose but, as far as I know, his suggestion has not been acted upon.

4) creation of special air-mobile sensor vehicles, which would have TV, "fast" cameras, infra-red, acoustic and other sensors. These sensors would be flown in to within twenty miles of Type I areas, but would arrive at the scene under their own propulsion. They would possess a capability of orienting themselves very quickly to "sense", through their various modalities, the UFO itself or residual ionisation, etc, in the air. A special air-mobile team of investigators would then go over the terrain. I believe that the usefulness of UFO leavings decreases logarithmically with the passage of time.

* * * *

English critics will point out, I am sure, that these suggestions illustrate the typical "Yankee" love of technology. But I nonetheless feel that

good sensor data is worth a dozen of even the best eyewitness accounts.

Cordially, Ron Westrum, 404 W. Summit, Ann Arbor, Michigan,
USA 48103

PETER ROGERSON REPLIES TO RONALD WESTRUM

First I would like to thank Dr Ronald Westrum for his interest in my research proposals; while there have been a few private comments on them, his is the first published response.

I will reply to Ron's points in turn:

1) I don't really think my proposals can be called dictatorial, as they were clearly labelled as "suggestions for discussion". We had hoped that others would have been encouraged to come forward and present their alternative priorities; perhaps Ron's letter will elicit some response.

2) As regards journals the following comments of Carl Grove's may be of interest: "The chief difference between UFO and 'scientific' magazines at the moment, apart from the obvious difference in technical level, probably lies in the role of the editor. The editor of a journal receives manuscripts and passes them to specialised consultants for examination; they either recommend acceptance or changes which might make the papers more acceptable. Once the author makes these changes, the paper is printed without accompanying editorial comment. UFO editors seem to feel that no paper is complete without their added footnotes or comments".

(1)

I agree with Ron that we shouldn't limit study of the UFO problem to the community of physical scientists, perhaps the "scholarly" community would have been a better description. Of course I did add "research workers" to cover those without formal academic qualifications. I will admit that, now, I would place far less stress on scientific qualifications than I did in early 1972. On the other hand there are many, like Ron himself, whose work is not published in UFO journals, while at the same time these journals are often filled with very poor material, the absence of which would be no loss to anybody.

3) Frankly, like my colleague John Rimmer, I doubt very much the general value of bureaucratic UFO groups. I hope Ron will agree with me that in such a controversial field, we should not organise groups whose sole purpose is to proselytise in favour of one or other "UFO theory". The Society for Psychical Research has owed its long existence and respectability precisely to such a policy of not enforcing some dictatorial party line on its members. Nothing can be accomplished by organisations such as BUFORA, which apparently now seeks to limit its membership to "believers" in the ET theory.

4) Now I will comment on Ron's own proposals. My main objection to them is that they are very impractical. Ron must know that the introduction of such techniques would require a budget which would dwarf that of the ill-fated Condon enquiry, and that they could be organised only by official agencies. Even if, by some unlikely chance, some official agency did reappear to replace Blue Book, it is extremely difficult to see how it could justify such a massive expenditure to Congress or any other authorising body.

5) Even if cash were available, I do not think it would be a correct procedure to undertake such a massive, expensive, and probably fruitless operation, unless there was some pressing need, or such a wealth of scientific paydirt that practically any expense would be justified. At the moment evidence of this need, or of any certain benefit, is not to hand.

6) Ron's proposals, I fear, suffer from the same critical defect as virtually all other UFO investigation schemes, both official and private; that is, they assume the answers before they start asking the questions. There can be little doubt that Condon, with the majority of his team, had decided, well before their enquiry had begun, that UFO reports were just misidentifications of everyday phenomena and that the purpose of the enquiry was to "prove" this predetermined

(continued on page 72)

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE 1 UFO REPORTS

— Part 6

compiled by Peter Rogerson

(Case No. 319 is repeated in this issue, as the last few lines were inadvertently omitted from the report in our last issue.)

319 10 September 1954 2230 QUAROUBLE (FRANCE)

A metal worker, Marius Dewilde (34), came out of his house as a dog was barking and saw a dark object on the railway tracks, then observed two dwarfs walking towards it. When he tried to stop them, he found himself paralysed as a strong orange light was projected at him. The creatures were under 1 m. tall, bulky, and wore dark diving suits. No faces or arms were visible. Traces made by an object of estimated weight 30 tons were noted, by French Air Force and police, on the ballast.

(M144; Le Parisien, Combat, Le Figaro, 13 September 1954; Michel II, 44; Magonia, 17)

320 14 September 1954 2200 COLDWATER (KANSAS)

John J Swain (12) was driving a tractor back from the fields when he saw a small man no bigger than a five-year-old child a few metres away from him. He had a long nose and ears, and seemed to "fly" when he moved towards a saucer-shaped craft hovering less than 2 m. above the ground. It "opened up" and the creature "popped inside". The craft became luminous and went out of sight. Strange traces were found by police. The strange creature was dressed in shiny clothes, and his shoes seemed to have "fins". He carried two cylinders on his back and his long ears were pointed.

(M145; Lincoln Star, late September 1954; Humanoids, 53; Wilkins U, 239; Lor II, 28, 119)

321 15 September 1954 2320 FEYZIN (FRANCE)

A white light suddenly swept the road in front of Roland M. (19), who observed that it came from a large dark object 10 m. above ground, 50 m. away. It flew away with the noise of a wet firework, throwing magnesium-like sparks.

(M146; Le Parisien, 29 September 1954; Michel II, 49)

322 17 September 1954 2230 CENON (FRANCE)

Between Cenon and Vouneuil, Yves David (28) had to dismount from his bicycle when he suffered a sensation like an electric shock. From an object on the road, about 3m by 1m, came a very small being in a diving suit, who touched him on the shoulder. The being had a voice "inhuman and incomprehensible" and re-entered the object, which took off "like lightning", throwing a greenish light. David could not move throughout the encounter.

(M147; Le Figaro, La Croix, France-Soir, Le Parisien, 30 September 1954; Michel II, 58)

323 18 September 1954 2015 CASABLANCA (MOROCCO)

A small, grey disc flew over a car at very high speed, followed by cold air currents. This was reported by Mr Guitta of Casablanca who was driving along a coastal road at the time.

(M148; Ouranos; Cramp, 127)

324 19 September 1954 2115 OBERDORFF (FRANCE)

A bright light was seen, by the policeman Louis Moll, in the east. It came to the ground, lost its brightness, and remained on the spot for 40 seconds. It was the size of a small bus, and there was a figure in front of it. It rose and took on the appearance of a red ball.

(M149; Le Parisien, 23 September 1954; Michel II, 63)

- 325 20 September 1954 2300 SANTA MARIA AIRPORT (AZORES)
 Aguard saw a craft, 3.5 m in diameter, and 1.5 m thick, land on the airfield. The witness, Vitorino Lourenco Monteiro, said a figure emerged from the craft and said something he could not understand, before the machine took off again. There were antenna-like protrusions on top of the object.
 (M150)
- 326 23 September 1954 2100 LE JOU (FRANCE)
 The Patient family witnessed the landing of a bright object giving off a magnesium-like light, a red glow, and a narrow beam of light. It took off again a moment later and followed their car until they reached Fontland. Policemen in Plombieres and several independent witnesses observed the object as it flew erratically over the area for an hour.
 (M151; Le Figaro, 27 September 1954; Paris-Presse, La Croix, 28 September 1954; Michel II, 69)
- 327 23 September 1954 2100 LENCOUACQ (FRANCE)
 Mrs Vignolles saw a luminous object come down rapidly, without noise, and hover just above the ground in a field behind the rectory. It took off very fast a few seconds later.
 (M152; Paris-Presse, 28 September 1954; Michel II, 77)
- 328 24 September 1954 0900 BECAR, near DIGES (FRANCE)
 Two women (Widow Simone Geoffroy and Mlle. Gisele Fin) made independent reports of a dark grey disc, 6 m in diameter, 1m high, seen in a clearing. A man of normal height was standing close to it. He wore dark clothes and a sort of cap. Mlle. Fin came within 30 m of the craft and stated that the man was repairing it. Traces were found on the grass.
 (M153; L'Yonne Republicaine, Le Parisien, 28 September 1954; Paris-Presse, 29 September 1954; Carrouges, 98)
- 329 24 September 1954 2300 LACHASSAGNE FARM, near USSEL (FRANCE)
 Farm worker Elie Cisterne was driving his tractor back, when a luminous object dived towards him at high speed. He jumped from the tractor, which he had stopped. The object hovered at a few metres altitude some distance from the tractor, casting a reddish light over the fields, then moved off, hovering over an ash tree before accelerating away. Leaves on the upper branches were found dried and curled, as if subjected to great heat. Independently observed by the farmer, M. Brindel, and his servant, Maria.
 (M155; Le Parisien, 27 September 1954; Michel II, 76)
- 330 26 September 1954 1430 CHABEUIL (FRANCE)
 While gathering from the woods, Mme. Leboeuf, alerted by the howling of her dog, was suddenly confronted by a creature 1 m tall, resembling "a child in a plastic bag, with eyes larger than human eyes", which moved with a quick waddling gait. This creature entered a flat, circular machine, which took off towards the northeast with a soft whistling which several other people heard. Many traces were found. The witness was in a state of shock.
 (M156; Le Figaro, Combat, Le Parisien, 30 September 1954; Carrouges, 116; Anatomy, 70; Magonia, 54; Michel II, 82; Constance, 245)
- 331 27 September 1954 0230 FOUSSIGNARGUES (FRANCE)
 Having alighted from their bus, Mme. Julien and her son Andre saw a reddish object coming down. 10 minutes later, at "Revety", Mme. Roche woke her husband Louis to see an object on the ground, glowing softly, beside the road c. 100 m from their home. They ~~were~~ were afraid to approach it. Described as "a sort of glowing tomato with antennae on top", it remained for several hours. Other people on the bus also saw the light descend.
 (M157; Paris-Presse, Le Figaro, France-Soir, 2 October 1954; Michel II, 84; Anatomy, 71)

- 332 27 September 1954 0840 FIGEAC (FRANCE)
Children saw a "box" and "an unknown man" standing nearby. The object took off.
(M158)
- 333 27 September 1954 afternoon PERPIGNAN (FRANCE)
A high school student saw a circular object on the ground on the road to Lassus. Two "grotesque little creatures" came out of it, then re-entered the craft and left. The witness was so shaken that his parents called the doctor.
(M159; France-Soir, 2 October 1954; Michel II, 88)
- 334 27 September 1954 2030 PREMANON (FRANCE)
Four children were playing in the barn when their dog barked. Raymond Romand (12) went outside, followed by his sisters Ghislaine (8) and Janine (9), and brother Claude (4). They encountered a small being "like a lump of sugar standing on end, split at the bottom". It appeared metallic, reflected the barn light, and the stones Raymond threw at it bounced off with a metallic "clang". When Raymond touched the being he was flung to the ground by a kind of force. It waddled off. As the children fled they saw a big, red luminous ball about 150m away. Traces were found where this ball had been.
(M1 0; Ici Paris, 11 October 1954; Le Parisien, 1 October 1954; Paris-Presse, 2 October 1954; Challenge, 170; Michel II, 90)
- 335 28 September 1954 2130 FRONCLES (FRANCE)
M. and Mme Alexis Lartillot and Mlle Georgette Mongot observed a large bright object oscillate, then land. It changed colour and was lost to sight behind some trees.
(M161; Haut-Marnais, 7 October 1954; Michel II, 94)
- 336 28 September 1954 2230 BOUZAIS (FRANCE)
At "Le Grand Tetre" M Mercier observed that someone had stolen grapes from his vineyard. He decided to stay late and catch the "robbers". He was amazed when he saw a luminous mass fall from the sky about 50m away, and found himself paralysed as three figures emerged from the light and moved about. He lost consciousness. When he came to his senses, everything had vanished.
(M162; Berry Republicain, 29 September 1954; Michel II, 97)
- 337 28 September 1954 2310 SAINT NICOLAS DE REDON (FRANCE)
At "La Butte Rouge" two railway engineers, Bernard and Potraux, who were bringing a locomotive from Nantes to Auray, saw a dark object take off with a purple glow and follow them for 15 seconds before veering off. Potraux had to see a doctor.
x (M163; Le Parisien, L'Aurore, Combat, 30 September 1954, Michel II, 95; Anatomy, 70)
- 338 30 September 1954 0445 DEARBORN (MICHIGAN)
While driving to work, Lawrence Cardenas (45), a laundry employee, saw 15 strange men, wearing dark green uniforms, to his right. They had cylinders on their shoulders, tight fitting skull caps with pointed peaks in front, and heavy goggles. They were of medium height and a taller man seemed to be giving them instructions. About 80m away was a craft 4m high with coloured lights flickering on and off. The witness did not wait.
(M164; Wilkins U, 230)
- 339 30 September 1954 1630 MARCILLY-SUR-VIENNE (FRANCE)
Georges Gatay, head of a team of construction workers, felt drowsy, and found himself paralysed facing, less than 10m away, a man wearing coveralls, with an opaque glass helmet on his head, and short boots. The man had "a light projector" on his chest and had an elongated object in his hand. The man was standing in front of a large shining dome, hovering at less than 1m altitude, on the top of which were objects like rotating blades. The man disappeared "like an image one erases suddenly", the machine rising vertically by a jerking motion before it too disappeared in a

blue haze. Gatay suffered various physical and psychological after effects. The other seven workers, Beurrois, Lubanovic, Sechet, Villeneuve, Rougier and Amiraut, confirmed that they had seen the object and being, and felt the paralysis.

(M165; Ici Paris, 11 October 1954; France-Soir, 3 October 1954; Magonia, 63)

340 30 September 1954 dusk BREST (FRANCE)

At sea between Brest and Roven, the crew of the tanker "Port Lyautey" observed an object touch the surface of the sea, then take off vertically and give off a red flame before being lost to view.

(M166; Le Figaro, 2 October 1954; La Croix, France-Soir, 3 October 1954; AFP, 30 September 1954)

341 30 September 1954 2200 GRAND-COURONNE (FRANCE)

Jean Andrieux, ferry operator, saw a large white sphere, with a smaller green sphere below, hang motionless above the Seine for 20 minutes. It eventually flew away to the south-west.

(M167; Le Parisien, 2 October 1954; France-Soir, 3 October 1954)

342 30 September 1954 2200 ISLE OF RE (FRANCE)

As he was returning home near La Flotte-en-Re, Celeste Simonutti saw a bright light and, fearing a fire, rushed to the scene. There he observed a luminous sphere 12m in diameter, hovering at 1m altitude, turning red, blue, and taking off. There were two other witnesses.

(M168; Sud-Ouest, circa 2 October 1954)

Notes

330 Michel gives the time as 1605.

331 Michel gives the vehicle involved as a bus.

334 Vallee reports the children were leaving the house. Michel indicates there were two beings, but makes no further mention of this second being.

337 Michel gives the witnesses' names as Gerard and Paroux.

Peter Rogerson Replies to Ronald Westrum (continued from page 68)

conclusion. Similarly, most civilian UFO investigation societies seek to "prove", often by the most curious mental gymnastics, that UFO reports are generated by spaceships of some variety. Believers and sceptics alike clearly are seeking only to reinforce their pre-existing prejudices, and have few ideas on how an impartial investigation could be conducted. Ron, it would seem, has assumed that the UFO phenomena are capable of being studied by such tactics. This is premature. There is much preliminary work to be done before we can make any assumptions along these lines.

7) I accept the point that lies behind Ron's concern for instrumentalised data, and the doubtfulness of eyewitness testimony. It is for that reason that my research proposals avoid such dubious matters as compiling identi-kits of UFO shapes, and concentrate on those aspects of reports (primarily temporal and spatial distribution) which can be isolated from the specific eyewitness details. I would also be prepared to support low cost instrumental studies in alleged flap areas. It is perhaps in these alleged flap areas that real-time studies could be undertaken with profit; such studies should be undertaken by multi-disciplinary teams and would at least provide much valuable sociological information.

8) In general, though, I do not believe that the UFO problem can be taken in isolation and subjected to a series of impressive-sounding technological gimmicks. There are good reasons, I feel, for treating UFO phenomena along with other ostensible spontaneous anomalous phenomena. All these "events" present similar problems to the would-be investigator—the transitory nature of the alleged phenomena, the absence of unambiguous hard data, eyewitness accounts as the only real source of information, the apparent violation of existing scientific and philosophical paradigms, the atmosphere of superstition and fantastic speculation surrounding the reports. Under these circumstances I feel that a multi-disciplinary

study of the scientific and philosophical implications of such alleged phenomena would be of greater value than the, probably fruitless, expenditure of vast sums of money.

Notes

1. GROVE, CARL. Private communication.

We would be interested in publishing our readers' comments on Ron's ideas, or research suggestions.

Dr Ron Westrum is the author of "Social Intelligence about UFOs: an essay in the sociology of knowledge". (Working Paper 48 of the Institute for the Study of Social Change, Department of Sociology, Purdue University). This paper is strongly recommended by the editors of MUFOB.

THE PHANTOM HELICOPTER

by John Harney

Reports in national and local newspapers about a mysterious helicopter making night flights around parts of North West England seem to have been sparked off by incidents involving Cheshire and Derbyshire police in the early hours of Monday 14 January. Cheshire police had a report of a helicopter and were said to have "kept it under observation for some time". Derbyshire police were informed when the mysterious machine was thought to be heading their way. They are said to have sighted it in the Cat and Fiddle area around dawn.

During the week following 14 January numerous similar reports were published in the press. The phenomena seemed to be centred around the village of Goostrey, Cheshire (near Jodrell Bank). By 22 January, however, the national newspapers had dropped the subject.

In spite of police spokesmen and others insisting that the helicopter was real, and reports that the sightings were being investigated at a high level by the Special Branch, it was obvious quite early on that there was no real helicopter behind most of the reports, as they bore all the characteristics of a typical UFO flap.

An obvious clue to the imaginary nature of the helicopter was the vague and inconsistent nature of the published reports. It was said, for instance, that the machine was seen only at night, yet reports insisted that the helicopter carried no identification markings. Fantastic theories were put forward to suggest reasons for an unidentified, night-flying helicopter. The Daily Telegraph of 16 January reported:

"Yesterday more theories flourished about the phantom helicopter. It has already been linked with sheep rustling, smuggling, illegal immigrants and IRA gun and bomb squads. Now it is thought that it might be a 'home-made helicopter' which the owner, unable to obtain an air worthiness certificate, is flying—and dangerously so—at night or, it is suggested it might be a modern—and wealthy—lover who finds it the most convenient way to reach his mistress or girlfriend".

However, an item in the Daily Mail on 21 January reported the increasing doubts by senior police officers as to the helicopter's reality. It also reported: "Professor John Cohen, head of the psychology department at Manchester University, said that the first reports of the phantom may have started a rash of them. 'It is contagious', he said. 'Plant an idea and you get a kind of visual epidemic'".

Newspapers on 19 January reported a further development. Motorists on the A51 near Duddon, Tarporley, Cheshire witnessed the landing of an "unmarked" helicopter just before 5 p.m. on 18 January. Nearby was a farmhouse with a white Ford Escort parked in the driveway. As the helicopter took off, the car drove out of the driveway. Unlike many of the other reports this one turned out to be a sighting of a real helicopter. The Manchester Evening News (19 January) reported that the machine belonged to the Ferranti company, and had landed near Tarporley, on a journey North from London, to drop off a passenger.

Some time after the flap had died down, there were reports of helicopters seen or heard flying at night in the Merseyside area. These reports were

confirmed when they were identified as military helicopters, engaged on various activities. Apparently, military helicopters do quite a bit of night flying, in contrast with civil helicopters, which rarely do so.

To sum up, a fairly typical UFO flap, with a few real helicopters thrown in to confuse matters still further.

+ DR EDWARD CONDON 1902 - 1974 +

Dr Edward Condon died on 25 March at Boulder, Colorado. He was 72.

Condon rose to scientific eminence in America during the 1930s, after doing postdoctoral work in quantum physics at the University of Göttingen in Germany. During the Second World War he contributed to the development of radar and the atomic bomb.

In 1947 Condon fell foul of the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee, who were suspicious about his political views, and those of his associates. Between then and 1954 he became a highly controversial figure as he was continuously investigated by various government departments. It was in 1954 that Condon gave up his attempts to be granted clearance to give him access to secret information in connection with his work with the Corning Glass Works on a Naval contract. Richard Nixon, then Vice-President, was responsible for the suspension of his clearance.

After having been president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Physical Society, Condon became professor of physics at Washington University in St Louis and at the University of Colorado.

In 1966 he accepted an invitation from the US Air Force to head a project to study UFOs. Although no stranger to bitter controversy, Condon wrote in the Project's report: "Had I known of the extent of the emotional commitment of the UFO believers and the extremes of conduct to which their faith can lead them, I certainly would never have undertaken the study".

MERSEYSIDE UFO BULLETIN

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 4

April 1974

Editors

JOHN HARNEY, 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, WIRRAL, Merseyside L62 6AY

Telephone: 051-327 2146

JOHN A RIMMER, AIA, 11 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AW

Telephone: 01-949 4597

PETER ROGERSON, 8 Braddon Avenue, Urmston, MANCHESTER M31 1UE

ALAN W SHARP, BSc, BEng, FRAS, FGS, 22a Fairfield Road, Widnes, Lancashire.

Telephone: 051-424 8860

MUFOB is an informal journal devoted to ufology and related subjects. Circulation restricted. No subscriptions.

Printed and published by the editors.